

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of May 28, 2003 has been received and carefully reviewed. Prior to this Amendment, claims 6-8, 11-15, 18-22, and 25-30 were pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 6-8 and 26-30 are canceled, and claim 25 amended. Accordingly, claims 11-15, 18-22, and 25 are now pending in the application, of which claims 11, 18 and 25 are independent.

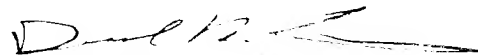
Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner has allowed claims 11-15, 18-22, and 25 over the closest prior art.

Claims 26 and 29-30, however, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 06049401; claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 06049401 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,165,258 to Asada ("Asada"); and claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 06049401 in view of Asada.

By the present amendment, all of the rejected claims, namely, claims 6-8, and 26-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and should therefore be withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance with respect to allowed claims 11-15, 18-22, and 25 is courteously solicited.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that there are remaining issues to be resolved, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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